

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00348 181057Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 CIEP-01
FAA-00 /091 W

-----181107 092652 /11

R 181000Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7756
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0348

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PDIP EAIR LA TH
SUBJECT: THAI-LAO DISCUSSIONS ON FLIGHTS AND POLITICAL RELATIONS

BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

1. LPDR DAILY BULLETIN IN LAO FEBRUARY 17 REPORTED THAT THAI FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDERSECRETARY WONG AND LAO FOREIGN MINISTRY CHEF DE CABINET SOUBANH SRITHIRATH HAD SIGNED DRAFT AGREEMENT BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS ON AIR TRANSPORTATION AND OVERFLIGHTS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES ALONG WITH MEORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENT "IMMEDIATELY".

2. BULLETIN SAID TWO SIDES HAD MET FEBRUARY 15 TO 17 TO DISCUSS SUBSTANCE OF AGREEMENT TO "EXCHANGE" CIVIL AIR FLIGHTS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES, OVERFLIGHTS OF TWO COUNTRIES BY INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES ON "A-1" ROUTE, AND "OTHER PROBLEMS" CONNECTED WITH AVIATION.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 VIENTI 00348 181057Z

3. ARTICLE ADDED THAT IN PRINCIPLE, COMMENCING THAT DAY, BOTH SIDES COULD BEGIN "REGULAR NORMAL" FLIGHTS BETWEEN VIENTIANE AND BANGKOK "AFTER RESOLUTION OF SOME PROBLEMS OF SMALL TECHNICAL DETAILS BETWEEN AVIATION OFFICIALS OF TWO SIDES."

4. BULLETIN NOTED THAT TALKS HAD TAKEN PLACE IN PLEASANT

ATMOSPHERE BASED ON PRINCIPLES OF RESPECT FOR EQUAL
BENEFITS TO BOTH SIDES.

5. ARTICLE ADDED THAT UNDERSECRETARY WONG HAD ALSO
CALLED ON SECSTATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS NOUPHAN SITHPASAY.
IT SAID TWO HAD EXCHANGED VIEWS IN ATMOSPHERE OF GOOD
UNDERSTANDING ABOUT IMPORTANCE OF RESTORING NORMAL
RELATIONS AND IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES
AND PEOPLES. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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6. THAI CHARGE CHET NAVARAT TOLD POLOFF HE HAD NOT
PARTICIPATED IN DISCUSSIONS BUT HAD HEARD THEY HAD
GONE WELL. HE SAID THERE WAS MUCH LAUGHTER IN MEETINGS
AND THAT WONG, WHO COMES FROM NONGKHAI AND SPEAKS LAO,
IMPRESSED THE LAO NEGOTIATORS. TALKS CONTINUED UNTIL
3:00 A.M. BOTH FEBRUARY 15 AND 16.

7. CHET INDICATED DRAFT AGREEMENT BETWEEN TWO GOVERN-
MENTS WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN BACK TO BANGKOK FOR
APPROVAL BY COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY. NEXT STEP
WOULD BE FOR DELEGATION OF THAI AIRLINE OFFICIALS TO RETURN TO
LPDR TO SIGN IMPLEMENTING AGREEMENT, ALTHOUGH HE THOUGHT
THIS WOULD JUST BE A FORMALITY. HE NOTED THAT LAO SAID
THEY COULD NOT AFFORD TO SEND A DELEGATION TO BANGKOK.
CHET DID NOT EXPECT FLIGHTS WOULD RESUME BEFORE MARCH 1.

8. HE ADDED THAT WONG TOLD HIM HE HAD DISCUSSED MOSTLY
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PAGE 03 VIENTI 00348 181057Z

POLITICAL MATTERS WITH NOUPHAN BUT HAD NOT BRIEFED
HIM ON WHAT WAS SAID.

9. FINALLY, CHET SAID WONG INDICATED TO HIM THAT THAI
WOULD SEND AMBASSADOR TO LPDR EVEN IF LAO DID NOT SEND
ONE TO THAILAND. WONG ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THAI WERE
HAVING A HARD TIME FINDING AN AMBASSADOR TO SEND AND
TOLD CHET HE WOULD HAVE TO STAY ON FOR A WHILE.
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Message Attributes

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